

ment that milk should be kept at the boiling point for one-half hour in order to sterilize it.

The book cannot fail to be of use in the manner indicated by its author in the preface. H. W. A.

**Treves' Operative Surgery.** New (3d) Edition. A Manual of Operative Surgery. By Sir Frederick Treves, Bart., G. C. V. O., C. B., LL. D., F. R. C. S., Sergeant-Surgeon to H. M. the King, Surgeon-in-Ordinary to H. R. H., the Prince of Wales, Consulting Surgeon to the London Hospital; and Jonathan Hutchinson, F. R. C. S., Surgeon to the London Hospital. New (3d) Edition, revised and rewritten. In two octavo volumes. Volume I, 775 pages, with 193 engravings and 17 full-page plates. Half-morocco, \$6.50 net. Lea & Febiger, Publishers, Philadelphia and New York. 1909.

The present edition of this popular book has been so thoroughly revised that there is little in it to suggest the first edition of Treves' Operative Surgery which appeared in 1891. It is full of sound advice and some of the generalizations are worthy of repetition. "An unsuccessful operation," they say, "is often attended by much abuse of the assistants and by very severe criticism of their manipulative powers. Such condemnation may be just or may only serve to illustrate the proverb that 'a bad workman complains of his tools.' It is during the most perplexing stages of an operation, and when things are going ill, that the indifferent operator finds that knives will not cut, that forceps will not hold, and that the clumsiness of assistants is beyond the limits of human belief.

"The best work is done with the simplest implements. A surgeon who is dependent upon a special instrument for this, and a special instrument for that, is a poor handicraftsman. . . . Some of the least progressive periods in the surgeon's art have been marked by the prolific production of instruments. . . . A great multitude of the instruments which figure in the maker's catalogues are evidences of incompetence and of a lack of dexterity which prevented the inventor from making full use of his hands.

"The surest sense of confidence rests with the operator who knows accurately what he intends to do, and how to do it. The least success follows the hand of the man who retains throughout an operation a speculative spirit, who depends largely upon his imagination for conditions, and upon the fortune of events for results. A shakiness of the hand may be some bar to the success of an operation, but he of a shaky mind is hopeless."

American surgeons cannot agree with the authors' views on the question of asepsis. On this point the book emphasizes the common practices in vogue in England. The book is abundantly illustrated and while exceptions can be taken to some of the statements, it is on the whole sensible, well written and thoroughly practical. R. R.

**Politzer on the Ear.** New (5th) Edition. A Text-book of the Diseases of the Ear, for Students and Practitioners. By Professor Dr. Adam Politzer, Imperial-Royal Professor of Aural Therapeutics in the University of Vienna; Chief of the Imperial-Royal University Clinic for Diseases of the Ear in the General Hospital, Vienna, etc. Translated at the personal request of the Author and edited by Milton J. Ballin, Ph. B., M. D., Assistant Surgeon, New York Ophthalmic and Aural Institute; Assistant Surgeon, Mount Sinai Dispensary, Ear, Nose and Throat Department, etc., and Clarence L. Heller, M. D. Fifth Edition, enlarged and thoroughly revised. Octavo, 892 pages, with 337 original illustrations. Cloth, \$8.00, net. Lea &

Febiger, Publishers, Philadelphia and New York. 1909.

With the appearance of the fifth edition of Prof. Adam Politzer's classic work, we note at once that it has kept apace with the most modern ideas of Otology. The old form and general arrangement have been preserved. This is not especially to be commended. Several books published in this country and abroad in the last year have by arrangement of material and general heading and subheading made the task of the student much easier. The nature of the treatise, however, its great depth and scope, make such small details of little significance. There is no book on the ear so exhaustive in its treatment or so backed by the personal experience of the author, and of those directly connected with him through his clinic. Politzer is to-day the greatest living teacher in matters pertaining to the ear, and the great number of those all over the world who have come in personal contact with him in his work will recognize the weight that the selection by him of the good and the rejection of the worthless will have.

The chapters of anatomy and physiology are especially exhaustive, and though many of the cuts are somewhat antiquated, like those of Gray's anatomy, they have been again called upon to do service because of the clearness of the line drawing. It is a help to find the anatomical points, so well given in our modern anatomies, brought to our attention with especial reference to their significance in the understanding of the ear—healthy and diseased. The wealth of thought that is added to the cold anatomical facts makes the reading broadening. For example, after describing the external ear, he adds: "Imhofer is of the opinion that certain peculiarities of formation of the auricle are often hereditary, and considers them as an important aid in the establishment of descendants—for example, in cases in which the parentage of a child is in doubt. The new criminal school of Italy, of which Lombroso is at the head, considers the anomalies in the form of the ear as degenerative changes. Gradenigo mostly found anomalies of conformation of the auricle among the insane and criminals. Bertillon, Blau, and others inclined towards this latter theory."

The minutia into which the author has gone, gives always the stimulating impetus towards experimentation so lacking in the brief tabulations of well-known facts, condensed into so many text-books.

The anatomical and physiological parts with the citation of the authorities for the different observations make the subject a live one, and we realize that the opinion of these complexities is still in the forming.

We find the chapters devoted to methods of examination and treatment, equally thorough and complete. The methods of inflating the ear have been given the closest study by the author, and the comparative values of the various procedures estimated. It is to be expected that the method which bears Politzer's name should be strongly advocated. Its use in the treatment of certain ear conditions would not, however, be so constantly advised by all otologists.

Considerable space has been worthily given to the instruments and methods used in testing hearing. This chapter is of especial value and represents the best thought upon these subjects. Gradenigo's useful forks are especially described. They serve to give us a constant intensity for certain tuning-fork tones. Bloch's forks are a clever modification, but somewhat cumbersome.

Especially in the exposition of the pathology, diagnosis and treatment of the non-suppurative processes that occur in the middle ear has Prof. Politzer given us the last word. In regard to the